

REMARKS

Applicants' invention is directed to articles of manufacture comprising a core material and a surface material, wherein the core material is a wood composite and the surface material is a high pressure laminate. In accordance with the invention the wood composite is bonded to the high pressure laminate with a foamed polyvinyl acetate emulsion-based adhesive. Articles of manufacture encompassed by the invention include countertops, architectural panels, flipper doors and the like.

Claims 12-18, 21 and 22 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Murphy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,036,673).

Murphy discloses use of an adhesive composition comprising water, filler, resinous adhesive, plasticizer and tackifier (see, e.g., col. 6, lines 50-52). Murphy describes a method of for installing a surface covering material on a surface such as a floor surface or a wall surface, using an adhesive that will conform to irregularities common on such surfaces.

Murphy discloses (col. 3, lines 8-14):

The method of the present invention may be used in installing sheet goods such as large widths or tiles of floor covering of vinyl, vinyl-asbestos, vinyl-foamed vinyl-asbestos, cellulose backed vinyl, jute or foam backed carpeting and the like; wall coverings such as fabric-backed polyvinyl halide, polyvinyl halide coated paper, and the like.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in the Murphy patent that wood composites may be bonded to high pressure laminates using a foamed polyvinyl acetate-based adhesive.

Murphy (col. 1, lines 18-26) merely discloses that:

The prior art has suggested many methods for installing a surface covering material on a surface such as a floor surface, wall surface, counter top, ceiling, upholstery substrates or the like.

Murphy goes on to disclose (col. 1, lines 18-23):


Many types of adhesives or adhesive products have been used, but the type of adhesive used depends to a large extent upon the use to which the surface covering will be subjected, as well as the nature of the surface covering material and the surface being covered.

Murphy only teaches adhesives and methods for bonding particular surface covering materials to specific flooring surfaces. Murphy does not teach countertops or any other article wherein a wood composite material is bonded to a high pressure laminate using a foamed adhesive comprising polyvinyl acetate.

Applicants again urge that Murphy fails to provide any motivation that would lead a skilled artisan to the practice of the claimed invention with a reasonable expectation of success. Applicants disagree that a skilled artisan would be motivated by a desire to use a quicker and easier method to obtain an improved bonded article, such as a smooth even finish. There is no disclosure in Murphy that would lead the skilled artisan to the claimed invention let alone provide any indication that such could be successfully accomplished. Murphy fails to suggest and does not provide any motivation to use foamed adhesive as claimed by applicants to bond a wood composite core material to a high pressure laminate, let alone the manufacture of a counter top, as set forth in claim 18. Murphy's enabling disclosure and claims are directed to applying a surface covering to a floor surface. Murphy fails to provide teachings suggestive of a reasonable expectation of success. Murphy fails to teach or suggest all the claimed limitations.

Withdrawal of the rejection of record is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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